

*David Charles'*

# Boston Vintage Sports Flashback

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JULY 31, 1919

## SOX BEAT TIGERS, 2 TO 1, IN 12 INNINGS

### Winning Run Is Result of a Technicallity

By James C. O'Leary, The Boston Globe

The final game of the Red Sox-Tigers series was hot stuff. The Champions won, 2 to 1, in 12 innings, but it was not an altogether satisfactory victory, the deciding tally being allowed to count because of interference with a base runner trapped between third and home, when the runner would have been an easy out and the score still a tie, if there had been no interference. The Red Sox owe the run to Ainsmith, who did a little body-checking, a la basket ball, on Mike McNally, who was running for Vitt.

The game was hard fought from start to finish and there was much kicking against the decisions of the umpires. Bush was put out of the game for protesting too vigorously against a decision in the first half of the inning. Donie kicked up the dust around first base, threw his cap in the air when Moriarty called him out on a close play. In the ninth inning it looked as if he got considerably the worst of it on a decision by the game official, and this time it cost the Tigers a run.

The work of the officials was so unsatisfactory that it looked as if there would be trouble when they went under the stands with the players after the game. There were threats and some pet names called, but no blows exchanged. Hundreds of spectators crowded in under the stands to see what promised to a fist fight.

### Jennings Is Suspended

Umpire Moriarty had some differences with Ed Barrow under the stand on Wednesday and wanted to give the Boston manager a battle. Hughie Jennings was drawn into the controversy and made a few remarks, and as a result of Moriarty's report of the affair drew an immediate suspension before the game yesterday.

The best thing about the game from a Boston viewpoint was the way that young Hoyt carried himself in his first start for the Red Sox. This boy is only 19 years old, but from start to finish of yesterday's grueling contest he was, apparently, as cool as any veteran.

Holding a bunch of sluggers like the Tigers to one run in 12 innings is something of a stunt for even an old campaigner but young Hoyt did it without extending himself. He allowed 10 hits in the 12 innings and gave only two bases on balls, and the longer the game went the more he seemed to improve.

Babe Ruth was very much in evidence yesterday. He hit no

home run, but he came through with two singles and two doubles and played like a star both in left field and at first base.

Ayers pitched well after the first inning and both he and Hoyt were given splendid support.

The Red Sox made a run in the first inning. Hooper led off with a single, went to second on Vitt's sacrifice and home on Ruth's single to center.

After retiring the Tigers in the order of their coming to bat in the first two innings, Hoyt got into something of a hole in the third, but the way he pitched himself out was impressive. He passed Jones; Ainsmith sacrificed; Ayers was thrown out at first; Bush was passed and stole. Men on third and second did not bother Hoyt a bit. He pitched to Young as if there was nobody on and finally threw "Pep" out at first, retiring the side.

In the fourth inning, with one down, Veach and Herman bunched singles, but they simply wasted energy.

### Ty's Triple Brings Run

In the eighth, though, "Ty" got in a blow that was not wasted. With two out he tripled nearly to the flagpole. He scored the tying run when Veach followed with a single to left.

In the ninth, Shorten led off with a single, and worked around to third on two outs. Bush then bunted, and seemed to have Schang's throw to first beaten, but Umpire Moriarty did not think so, and Donie making the third out. Shorten's run did not count.

There was nothing then until the last half of the twelfth. After Hooper had been retired by heilman unassisted, Vitt drew a pass. McNally was put in to run for him. Ayers threw over to first half a dozen times to catch Mike, and finally threw wild and McNally went to second. Roth flied to Young, and up came "The Manace" with his big club. "Babe" had driven in the first run, and had connected with a couple of doubles after that, but Ayers insisted on pitching to him. Ruth met one and hit it towards first, where Heilman batted down the ball.

McNally overran third and was trapped when Heilman threw to Ainsmith. Ainsmith chased McNally towards third and finally tossed the ball to Jones. McNally made a break toward home. Ainsmith blocked him, although there was not the slightest need of interference because heilman and Ayer were covering at the plate. Umpire Hildenbrand allowed McNally to score the deciding run because of Ainsmith's interference.

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JUNE 29, 1975

# SOX, MORET CATCH CATFISH, WIGGLE BACK INTO FIRST, 3-2

By Peter Gammons, The Boston Globe

If they had hired a playwright to stage this great weekend passion play, this was the way it should have ended. With the finals the best and most dramatic act of all.

The Red Sox scratched back against Catfish Hunter in the kind of game he has made his fortune winning. With Rogelio Moret's own superb pitching, and timely hitting culminated by Rick Burleson's game-winning eighth-inning double, the Red Sox finished the weekend with a 3-2 victory over the Yankees before 33,752 in Fenway.

If Fenway seems worn and tired for tonight's doubleheader with Baltimore, it should. There were 136,187 who came to the four-day weekend event, and they saw the Sox take three out of four and recapture first place by half a game. Its long-term significance is to be determined, but it knocked the Yankees off this week's covers of Sports Illustrated and Time. It cannot be long savored, for now the Orioles come in for three games in two nights, having won three in a row.

Hunter had a 2-0 lead, something in a big game akin to spotting the Dolphins four touchdowns. But as they have done so often, the Sox scrambled back to tie it 2-2 and, with one out in the eighth, Bernie Carbo doubled to right center. That brought up the toughest kid on the block - Burleson.

The count went to 2-2, and in the middle of his windup Hunter shook off Thurman Munson's sign. "I decided to pitch him out instead of in," said the Catfish (11-7), who had had a 1.89 ERA since late April. "I'd do it the same way again. I just got the ball up a little, and that kid is as tough a clutch hitter as there is."

Burleson ("With Hunter you're going to get something to hit and I just tried to hit it somewhere") hit it somewhere - down along the right field line for a double, scoring Carbo.

After Fred Lynn just missed a three-run homer, Moret went out and finished for his fifth straight victory - with a few final dramatic moments.

With one out in the ninth, Bob Oliver rocketed one off the wall in left center. Lynn made a good play, taking the ball off the wall and putting his throw on the second base bag. Thus Oliver just had a single, and after the red-hot Chris Chambliss lined to Rick Miller in right, Roy White flied out and it was over.

"They played exceptional baseball all weekend," said New York Mgr. Bill Virdon. "They have the best talent on the field of any team in our division, and when they get that kind of pitching (Moret, Tiant, Wise), they're very tough."

This was Moret's first start of the season, and he was as good as he looks in the box score. "When he starts," said Carlton Fisk, "he seems to be more confident in using all three of his pitches. And he's much tougher. That's as well as he's thrown in a long, long time."

The Yanks had gotten their 2-0 lead in the fifth on Chambliss's homer and doubles by Sandy Alomar and Bobby Bonds. Then, after Cecil Cooper got one of his three hits and Fisk doubled him in the bottom half of the inning to make it 2-1, came in the seventh inning - and two crucial involving getting

runners in from third.

With Chambliss on third, one out, Alomar could do no better than get a fly to short left. Chambliss couldn't run on Carl Yastrzemski's arm. Then, in the bottom of the inning, Lynn was on third, one out, and Rico Petrocelli hit a fly some 20-30 feet out on the center field grass. Lynn tagged and ran. Maybe Walter Williams couldn't see over the mound, but he'd have been better off sending Western Union. The throw was blocked, in the dirt, by Munson some 30 feet up the third base line. Tie score, 2-2.

This was a game that contained several outstanding defensive plays: Chambliss's double-play stab of a Yastrzemski shot inside the bag, and numerous good plays by Petrocelli, Burleson and Denny Doyle behind Moret.

So three times the Sox have faced the catfish this year, three times they've won. A fitting ending to a weekend that made oldtimers talk of the good old days of the grand old game, outsiders stare at what is the American League's finest rivalry and saw the Red Sox retake first place.

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JUNE 15, 1939

# COONEY'S SINGLE BEATS BUCS, 6-5

Smash Drives In Garms for Victory in 11th

By Gerry Moore, The Boston Globe

PITTSBURGH - After coming from behind to knot the count four times over the regulation route, the Bees successfully inaugurated their Western invasion by conquering the Pirates, 6-5, in 11 hat-raising innings before a Ladies' Day crowd of 5740 at Forbes Field this afternoon.

The scrappy Stenglemen pushed across the winning run on big Jim Tobin, who hurled the marathon distance for locals, after two were out in the second extra round. Debs Garms hustled his fourth hit of the afternoon into a two-bagger and Ol' Johnny Cooney rescued the fleet Debs with a patented sliced single into right, John's third hit of the fray.

That was the first time that the swarm was out front throughout the hectic contest, which saw an untowards total of 33 hits rapped out by both clubs, with the Bees scaling their season's peak by getting 17 blows. Not a base on balls was issued.

**Lopez Hits Three Doubles**

Tobacco John Lanning, who blanked the Bucs over the final four frames as the third Boston hurler, then retired the locals in order in the last half of the 11th with the help of a circus catch by Eddie Miller to gain credit for his first triumph of the season.

Besides Garms and Cooney, other Boston standouts with the stick included Slapsie Maxie West, who slapped out his seventh homer of the campaign on his first time at bat and Senor Al Lopez, who celebrated his return to action with three doubles. The Senor's third two-bagger accounted for the run in the eighth which forced the issue into overtime.

Ol' Chuck Klein was the chief Pirate offender, as he drove in three of the Pirate tallies with as many blows, including his second round tripper of the semester off Lefty Milt Shoffner in

the seventh. The brothers Waner only made seven safeties between them, including four straight singles by "Little poison" Lloyd.

### **Fette Bombed in Second**

Bridegroom Lou Fette, in quest of his eight conquest of the campaign, failed to last two innings. Fette was the victim of an unearned marker in the opening round, when Hassett's boot of P. Waner's grounder, Vaughan's infield out and Klein's clean shot into center gave the Bucs a 1-0 lead. But after West's four-master into the right-field upper deck momentarily squared things in the first half of the second, the Bucs hopped aboard bridegroom Lou for fair. With one down in the last half, Lloyd Waner pushed a single into left. Berres forced "Little Poison" for the second out, but Tobin and Paul Waner rattled successive doubles off the distant berriers and that was the end of Fette.

With two away in the fifth, the swarm tied it again at 3-all on four straight singles by Shoffner, Garms, Cooney and Hassett, the first and last of which were Texas Leaguers that just fell safely into right center.

### **Tie It Up Again in Sixth**

The Pirates went ahead 4-3 in the last half of the same chapter with their first run off Shoffner. With one away, singles by P. Waner and Suhr, sandwiched around Vaughan's safe bunt, loaded the sacks, and Klein's grounder to Warstler rescued P. Waner.

The Bees came right back with two out in the sixth to deadlock it again at 4-all as Lopez dropped a double among Brubaker and the Waners in right center and Warsler registered the Senor with a single into the same territory.

With two out in the seventh, Klein pumped his homer into the right-field lower deck among the screeching fannette and it looked to as if it was all over, but the Sawrm came back and did it again in the eighth.

Henie Majeski inaugurated this round with a long double to left center and Otto Huber was inserted to run for the still limping Henie. After Eddie Miller, the only Bee regular to go hitless, had grounded out to Handley, Lopez promptly rescued Huber from second by lashing two-bagger No. 3 up against the left-field score board.

### **BEEES BUZZINGS**

Lanning's best pitching came in the ninth, which saw P. Waner open with a single. Vaughan then beat out a bunt. . . . With runners on first and second and none out, Tobacco John grabbed Suhr's bunt and forced P. Waner at third and Klein then rapped into a fast double play, Hassett to Miller to Hassett.

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## **Boston Vintage Sports Flashback**

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JUNE 7, 1947

# **SPAHN'S 3-HITTERS BLINDS REDS, 9-0; 5 HITS FOR HOLMES**

**By Jack Barry, The Boston Globe**

Tommy Holmes and Warren Spahn led the Braves to a 9-to-0 victory over the Cincinnati Reds before 19,536 at Braves Field last night, and the Boston club went into a virtual tie with Chicago for third place in the National League race.

Spahn, smooth-working southpaw, rebounded from his first defeat at the hands of the Cardinals last week by fashioning an impressive three-hit njob, whole Holmes, "idol of the jury box," won the deepest favor of his right-field cohorts by bashing out five hits in five trips, one a double.

Not far behind this topnotch pair was 'Bama Rowell with "three-for-three," one a double, plus brilliant fielding and base running. The visiting Rhinelanders now have gone down before three Braves six times in seven outings.

Johnny Hopp, Bob Elliott and Specs Torgeson also figured prominently in the victory, delivering vital blows with runners in scoring position. Elliott contributed the night's fielding feature, a glove-handed grab of Ray Lomanno's sizzling liner over third in the seventh.

Spahn, using a screw ball with a telling effect, along with his speed and customary control, gave three hits, all singles, walked only two and whiffed seven. Only two Reds reached second. this marked Warren's second whitewash job, both against the Reds, and his first three-hitters. He has pitched two four-hitters.

### **Holmes Starts It**

Singles by Holmes and Hopp and Elliott's clutch double gave the tribe a running start in the first against the pitching of starter Ed Erautt, who lasted until he was relieved for a pinch hitter in the eighth.

In the third, singles by Holmes and Hopp led to a couple more markers as they preceeded Torgy's intentional walk, Elliott's double play ball and Rowell's first hit.

A Sisti walk, Erautt wild pitch and Holmes' single chalked up the fourth scor in the fourth inning.

The big blow-up came in the eighth. Everett Lively, right-hander, came in to toss for the Reds after Ray Lamanno had struck out batting for erautt in the first half of the round.

The visiting fireman learned the hard way that these are not the same old Braves he used to read about as a boy - Rowell singled. He reached second when Lively threw badly to Miller on an attempted force at second after taking Masi's bunt. It was scored "fielder's choice," error. Sibby Sisti struck out, but the runners perpetrated a twin steal. Connie Ryan was intentionally walked to fill the sacks.

Spahn's bunt on a attempted squeeze baffled Lively. He threw tardily to the plate, Rowell scoring and Spahn reaching first.

Up came Holmes and with the fans clamoring for his fifth hit, Tommy did not let them down. He singled over Art Tatum's head to score Masi and Ryan. Lively put a temporary quietus on

things whiffing Hopp, but Specs Torgeson's long hoist to right center was misjudged by Baumholtz and went for a triple. Two runs scored on the blow. Zientara took Elliott's pop to end things.

### **BRAVES' BUZZINGS**

Frankie Baumholtz, one of the few athletes talented enough to play major league baseball and basket ball has ended all doubts about his ability to make the major league grade. . . .The Cleveland Rebel star will eventually forego the court to devote all his time to baseball. . . .Including last night's game Baumholtz has made 62 hits in 205 trips for a neat .302 mark. . . .He has kicked four in the outfield. . . .but none since May 14.

It will be Mort Cooper and Red Barrett today in the twin bill finale vs. the Reds Johnny Vander Meer and the veteran Bucky Walters. . . .Cooper and Barrett pitched well in the Sunday twin bill "on the road" at Cincinnati, the Tribe splitting the decisions when Eddie Miller's hit beat Mort in the lid-lifter.

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NOVEMBER 28, 1933

## **BRUINS TRAIL THEN WIN FROM OTTAWA**

### **Get Started in Second Period to Tie, Then Shore Shoots One For 2-1 Boston Victory**

**By Melville E. Webb Jr., The Boston Globe**

The slim Garden crowd of 8000 hockey fans were rewarded by a Bruins' 2-to-1 victory over the Ottawa Senators last night. They saw some fast, aggressive hockey, a couple of fights, and also Eddie Shore make his first goal of the year.

Eddie's bit of business was mighty important, too. The Senators got one goal in the first period, and the Bruins got one in the second. The third 20-minute stretch was an up and down the ice free-for-all for 15 minutes, and then Eddie Shore began to go.

It's the fact that you make goals, not how you make 'em that counts.

#### **Game-Winning Goal**

Shore's game-winning shot was fluky, but it sure was effective. The Edmonton wheat farmer, who had fought his way up the ice often to no avail, at last got the "break." He raced in fast, but had to follow the puck to the back boards. Then he passed out, the puck going into a mass of players and being deflected into the Ottawa strings by somebody's skate or stick. But it was a goal, and put Shore's name on the ledger in black letters.

Ottawa scored first on a shot by Bud Cook, once tried out by Bruins, with Bowman assisting. Cook had carried straight up to Thompson. Alex Smith got in the tying stroke, playing a short rebound from Oliver.

Bowman, the former amateur from Niagara proved an aggressive customer, getting into a scrap with Stewart and both boys drawing five minutes in the pen. Incidentally there were no other penalties although it was rough, rugged hockey all the way.

George Boucher had his reconstructed team battling for

everything in sight. The Senators always hustled, and had the speed to be eternally bothersome on the defensive, following back to mess up many a Bruins combination.

the teams go to Ottawa tomorrow for thursday's game on the Senators' ice. Frank Jerwa of the Cubs will go along with the Bruins, replacing Tommy Filmore, who returns to the Cubs, and also being needed as Vic Ripley cannot take the trip because of a cut on his ankle last night - one which required several stitches.

#### **One Goal, One Fight**

One goal for the Senators, and a nice little fight made the excitement of the first period.

The goal was not produced until after 16 minutes play, and was caged by Bud Cook. Scotty Bowman got the puck at the right sideboards, came out to middle ice and passed just as Eddie Shore got to him. It was a soft little pass, but Cook was in like a flash to pick up the disc and race with it right up to the cage. Then it was man to man for Cook and Thompson, with Bud getting the decision.

The battle of the period took place some time before the Senators scored. Nels Stewart and Bowman were carrying sticks high just off the right of the Ottawa goal. Finally Bowman walloped Stewart over the head.

Sticks were discarded and fists began to fly fast. Bill Tuohey declared himself in but was promptly throttled by Eddie Shore. Then when Eddie loosened his hold Tuohey went at it again. Both referees were trying to stop proceedings, but there were some good solid punches exchanged before the mixup was declared a draw and Stewart and Bowman were sentenced to the pen for five minutes each.

In spite of not scoring the Bruins forced the play. They made some nice sallies in combination, but the shots were not so good. There were some real fozzles, too, by Hitchman, Beattie, Gracie and Barry in the last four minutes. Not very inspiring hockey by the Bruins.

#### **Bruins Make It Even**

Putting forth every effort early in the second period to get into the game, the Bruins finally landed the tying goal in seven and a half minutes, Perk Galbraith passed out to Harry Oliver whose shot was on the line, but was stopped by Beveridge. Bill, however, did not have a chance to clear so fast was the waiting Alex Smith to get his stick on the rebounding puck and to shoot it into the strings.

It was a battling period from the start. The Bruins got together better and the goal was bound to come. Beveridge had two corking stops to make at the expense of Clapper at the start, but Thompson made a "pip" when Earl Roche lined one from the boards. Bowman and Barry started a mixup back of the Senators' cage, but this one did not amount to a thing.

After making their goal, the Rossmen eased up a little and then went after the lead. They did not get it, but plugged away eternally and looked better generally than in the preceding period. Smith almost scored again from a pass from Red Beattie, Gracie demanded Beveridge's fastest work and Joe Lamb was out of luck when his narrow angle shot hit the post. Ottawa also flashed occasionally, Wasnie making Tiny chase across his cage to make a whale of a save, and Desse Roche making a great attempt not long before the bell.

## Pepper Away

After having provided Bill Beveridge with 26 stops in the first two periods to only 13 for Thompson, the Bruins raced into the final stanza and peppered away, but could accomplish nothing. Eddie Shore several times had the crowd roaring, but could not break through himself, or figure in any play making. It was very much a match all around, but soon after half time by another short bout between Shore and Bowman, with everything being OK with the referees.

All the boys were excited as the fighting teams were delivering all they had to grab an edge. Syd Howe made two bothersome shots for tiny and Beveridge saved a rattling shot by Marty Barry. At last the Bruins got one in. It was a freakish goal, as we have told you; but it counted big. A big scare came right after that when Jerry Shannon got clear at Tiny's left. The shot was right on the button, but Thompson saved, not only the goal, but the match, from going to overtime.

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MARCH 28, 1987

# RANFORD, BRUINS PICK OFF CANUCKS

By Francis Rosa, The Boston Globe

Saturday afternoon at Boston Garden went this way: At 1:20 p.m., Cam Neely was given the Seventh Player Award (a car, courtesy of a fans' vote) by Channel 38; from 1:25 to 2:05, the Bruins didn't show up ready to play; at 4 p.m., they went to the dressing room with a 2-1 victory over Vancouver -- a win that telescoped two objectives into one.

First, it kept the Bruins alive for second place in the Adams Division; secondly, it pushed Vancouver to within a point of being eliminated from contention for a playoff post. That is more important to the management than to the players, for the Bruins hold Vancouver's first-round pick in the June 13 draft. A Vancouver tie or a Los Angeles tie in the remaining games would erase the Canucks and the Bruins, would get no worse than the fifth pick overall and possibly the first.

Coach Terry O'Reilly thought it was funny that any Bruin would be concerned about getting the first pick overall "so that one of them would be replaced. We're thinking more about second place," and the playoffs that will be upon them after four more games.

That's why Bill Ranford's goaltending over the last two games has brought a renewed confidence to him, O'Reilly and the team.

"That's two wins in a row for him," said O'Reilly, "and it's important to have both our goalies on the upswing as the playoffs approach." Doug Keans will play in Chicago to-night. Ranford had a solid game yesterday, preventing a tie and overtime with 42 seconds to play by blocking a Petri Skriko shot from the front of the crease. "I think I closed my eyes on that one," Ranford grinned. "I did the butterfly, and it hit me. I felt, 'Stop it or it's overtime.' It was a do-or-die thing." He did, and saved the two points. Ranford had lost three games by a goal, played "a stinker," and now has two good games in a row behind him.

His goaltending made goals by Tom McCarthy and Thomas Gradin in the second period stand up.

McCarthy's came off an unusual circle-to-circle-to-circle play. McCarthy had the puck at the bottom of the right circle. He whipped it across to Steve Kasper at the bottom of the left circle. Kasper gunned the puck toward the net. "I don't know if his shot was going wide," said McCarthy. "Maybe it hit the goalie's stick, but it came back to me." McCarthy now was behind the goal line below the circle. "I kicked the puck to my stick and shot it," he said. Goalie Richard Brodeur was still high in the crease to his right, where he had gone on Kasper's shot.

Gradin capitalized on a good play by Rick Middleton to score the winner against his former team. The fact that the opponent was Vancouver didn't give him any extra satisfaction. "It's unbelievable how fast you forget," he said. Middleton stole the puck from Brent Peterson along the left boards and "gave me a perfect pass," said Gradin. "I kept it for a little while and then hit it low" into the net from 15 feet out in the left slot. Gradin made an uncharacteristic motion with his arms and stick after he scored. "I don't score too many, and I got a little excited," he said.

The Canucks, playing the kind of road game that brings dividends, cut the lead in half with 3:27 to go in the second period on Raimo Summanen's score. Patrik Sundstrom hit the puck wide on an open shot from the slot, and it rebounded off the boards. Ranford swiped at it with his stick as it came back toward him and mishit it. Sweeping into the slot, Summanen whacked it into the net.

There wasn't too much in the game to satisfy the Bruins. The first period "was boring," as Gradin said, "and we were fortunate to get the two points." The second period was so-so. But the third period was pretty good hockey, with both teams getting excellent scoring chances and both goalies making excellent saves. "There was strong goaltending by both Brodeur and Ranford," said Vancouver coach Tom Watt. "There was good penalty killing by both teams (the power plays were a combined 0 for 7), and it was a hard-fought, tight game. We played all right, but they got the extra goal. We're still alive for the playoffs -- hope springs eternal in the human heart."

"The win was acceptable," said McCarthy. "We played just well enough to win."

Yesterday that was enough.

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NOVEMBER 17, 1949

# CELTICS WIN, 90 TO 68, FOR FIRST HOME VICTORY

By Jack Barry, The Boston Globe

The Celtics captured their first home game of the year. Downing the Indianapolis Olympians, 90 to 68, last night at the Garden before 5073 fans.

Celebrating the signing of Yale's Tony Lavelli, who was not present, however, Doggie Julian's club clearly outplayed the visitors, paced by Kentucky's great All-American trio of Alex Groza, Ralph Beard and Wah Wah Jones.

After an even first period which ended 19-all, the Celtics outscored Clif Barker's cotrie of ex-collegians, who had little bench strength, 26 to 13, 23 to 15 and 22 to 21 over the final three periods.

Julan cleared his bench and played his ex-Holy Cross trio of George Kaftan, Joe Mullaney and Dermie O'Connell for a goodly portion of the last period, with Mullaney's passing, perhaps winning him a permanent job with the club.

Groza was high man for the night with 23 points. The Celtics scoring was split well, with Sonny Hertzberg leading with 16. George Norstrand following with 15, while Brady Walker collected 13., George Kaftan 12 and Bob Kinney 10.

### **Celts Underdogs**

The Celtics were underdogs by two points.

Nosreand and Kinney stayed abreast of Groza and his alternate Mike McMullen - and when this pair of pivot men are dropping the points, the Celtics are in the ball game.

Walker was a standout on the boards, and George Kaftan's floor play was spectacular, although the ex-Purple star was missing in his shots.

The Celtics dropped in 22 free tries in 31 attempts, while the visitors scored 24 in 31. A total of 25 personals were called on Boston, and 27 against Olympians.

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DECEMBER 30, 1983

# **CELTICS STEAL IT FROM MAVERICKS IN OT, 114-109**

**By Dan Shaughnessy, The Boston Globe**

It was a year in which Larry Bird and Kevin McHale became millionaires, while Harry Mangurian and Bill Fitch sold out.

It was a year in which the Milwaukee Bucks humbled the Celtics in a four- game playoff sweep - which led to sweeping changes in the offseason.

In a gritty and intense 53 minutes, the Green Team said goodbye to 1983 with a 114-109 overtime victory over the Dallas Mavericks last night. The victory enabled Boston to close the year with the most wins in the NBA, a 12-3December and a 7-0 lifetime record against the emerging Mavericks.

The Celtics stole this one. They trailed most of the way and faced a six- point deficit with 2:39 left.

"Mercy," said coach K.C. Jones. "Coming off a loss like last night's (in Houston) and then hanging in there tonight showed a lot of guts. We didn'tquit."

The overtime was relatively simple compared with the end of regulation. Jones had his starting five on the floor for the entire extra period. Dennis Johnson opened the scoring, burying a jumper from 18 feet to put the Celtics ahead for good. Then Kurt Nimphius fouled Bird going for an offensive rebound, and Cedric Maxwell canned a 17-foot set shot from out top to make it 107-103 with 3:36 left.

Brad Davis came back with two on a drive down the lane, but Maxwell drove on Jay (He Ain't Heavy, He's Fat) Vincent and scored as he was fouled. Maxwell made the free throw, and the Celtics were up by five with three minutes left.

"When you get the first couple of baskets in overtime, it puts a lot of pressure on the other team," said Maxwell, who finished

with 20 points. "Those five minutes go by awfully fast."

Rolando Blackman (34 points) cut Boston's lead to 110-107 with a jumper, but Pat Cummings and Davis missed shots on Dallas' next three possessions. And when Larry Bird (36) scored on a drive with 36 seconds left, the Celtics led, 112-107, and you could hear Don Meredith humming "The Party's Over."

The Mavericks must feel somewhat jinxed against the Celtics. Dallas led by 10 points for a good portion of the game and held a 103-99 lead with 35 seconds left in regulation. But the fact that Mark Aguirre (22 points) had fouled out with 3:50 left didn't help, and neither did a flurry of late turnovers forced by the tenacious Celtics.

"We felt if we kept the pressure on 'em, we could probably break them," said Maxwell.

After Davis' bomb had made it 103-99 with 36 seconds left, Bird (14 for 25 overall) came back seven seconds later and canned one from the top of the key.

Dallas came back, and Davis dished off to Cummings underneath, but Cummings' shot missed, and Robert Parish grabbed the rebound. Still trailing by two, the Celtics called time with 7 seconds remaining.

After the pause, Bird inbounded from midcourt to DJ.

"I had a few options," said Johnson (17 points, 6 assists). "I could flip it back to Larry or drive to the hole. But there's not much time for hesitation with seven seconds."

DJ drove straight for the hoop and was fouled by Blackman with four seconds left. With great cool, he made both to tie it.

The Mavericks squandered their last chance. Vincent inbounded to Blackman, but under heavy pressure from DJ, Blackman stepped out of bounds as he caught the ball. The Celtics took one last shot, but it was an airball by Bird from the left corner and extra innings awaited.

The Celtics would like to forget about the first 24 minutes. It was a lot like Thursday's Houston humiliation. The Celtics committed 11 turnovers (nine in the first period), shot 40 percent (16-40), played Denver Nugget defense, and trailed, 54-46, at intermission.

The Celtics roared back in the third quarter. Down by 10, Boston started running and Gerald Henderson and Bird led a 10-4 run that trimmed Dallas' lead to four. Parish (four in the first half against the immortal Cummings) awoke from sleep's dark and silent gate, scoring eight points in the period, including a dunk that tied it at 64, and two free throws gave the Celtics their first lead (66-64) since 2-0. The Celtics hung on and led, 75-74, after three.